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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/806,767

Title: Multi-Source Programming Guide Apparatus and Method

Applicant: Nishikawa et al.

Response to Office Action of July 2, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 81235.7114

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend Claims 1, 8, and 13; and add new illustrative Claims 18, 19, and 20 as follows. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method in an audio/video programming guide apparatus comprising:

5 providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider;

providing at least one selection criterion;

10 applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content; [[and]]

15 displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection[[.]]:

supporting a programming guide navigation;

20 reviewing and browsing the information regarding the at least one portion of the resultant selection;

if selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, providing a selection response; and

if not selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, returning to the supporting step.

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Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of

5 discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing

5 descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video

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content.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An interactive programming guide comprising:

characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider and—at least one selection criterion; and

5 control circuitry adapted to:

apply the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality 10 of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of first the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; [[and]]

display programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection[[.]]; and

15 a support programming guide navigation.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection.

Claim 10 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 and wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

Claim 11 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one

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selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

Claim 12 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of providing a programming guide comprising:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to a primary transmission service provider; [[:]]

5 providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality 10 of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs; [[and]]

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection[.];

providing a support programming guide navigation.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising

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information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the 5 first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the 5 first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of 5 audio/visual content;

providing a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided; and

10 responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content,

wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

15 accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

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wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

20 supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, and

25 wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 19 (new): The interactive programming guide of claim 8,

wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable 5 items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection,

wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide,

wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword, and

wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 13,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

5 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items

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10 of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.